



QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

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2. WHY DID MILK PRODUCTION DECLINE IN JANUARY?
3. WHO IS THE NEW FARM CENSUS DIRECTOR?
4. WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED LATE SPRING CABBAGE ACREAGE?
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8. WAS JANUARY FARM EMPLOYMENT HIGHER THAN DECEMBER?
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No. 55

RALEIGH, N. C.

FEBRUARY 15, 1950

FEBRUARY 1, 1950 GENERAL FARM REPORT

GENERAL SITUATION GOOD

As of February 1, soils in the mountain districts held an excessive supply of moisture. The same conditions existed throughout most of the northern and central Piedmont counties. There were some areas in the southern Piedmont district where soils were too wet to permit any field work. In the three eastern districts soils were in very good shape. Temperatures were unseasonably warm throughout the entire State. The past winter has been very mild and rainfall has been such that farmers have had an excellent opportunity to get their land in shape for spring planting well ahead of normal.

It is quite possible that we may have a repetition of conditions which were experienced during the winter and spring months last season. Small grains have made abnormal growth and a severe freeze now could mean another poor small grain crop, particularly wheat. Most of our wheat acreage is planted with Hardi-red and Red Hart varieties which are not too winter hardy and which suffered serious

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STATE SOYBEAN STOCKS DOWN

Total stocks of soybeans in North Carolina in all positions on January 1, 1950 amounted to 2,991,000 bushels. This compares with 3,192,000 bushels in all positions on January 1, a year earlier. Of the total stocks as of January 1, this year, 1,465,000 bushels were on farms while 1,526,000 bushels were in off-farm positions.

In the United States about 180 million bushels of soybeans were stored in all positions on January 1, 1950. These stocks are nearly as large as the record of 183 million bushels on January 1, 1949, and more than a fourth larger than on January 1, 1948.

The current total includes nearly 62 million bushels on farms and 35 million bushels in interior mills, elevators and warehouses; both of these are estimates by the Crop Reporting Board. A year earlier farm stocks were 75½ million bushels; they have been as large as 88 million bushels on January 1, 1943 and as low as 37 million bushels on January 1, 1947. Interior mill and

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FARM CENSUS DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Mr. John T. Richardson was recently appointed to direct the Farm Census under the 1949 Legislature's Act.

While this position was authorized to start last July, Commissioner L. Y. Ballentine wanted to be sure to get the right man for this complex and important farm census work. It was not until January 1950 that the decision was finally made and Mr. Richardson appointed.

Mr. Richardson comes into this all agencies service work with considerable business experience. He gave up a much more lucrative salary as executive secretary of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. He has had long experience in salesmanship and administrative duties.

Being farm reared he appreciates both the commercial and agricultural relationships. He understands the business aspects, in which agriculture is weak. While new in the farm census field, he realizes that farm facts, and agricultural statistics are the keys to program planning and research endeavors.

JANUARY MILK PRODUCTION SHOWS SLIGHT DECLINE

Milk production on North Carolina farms during January totaled 120 million pounds compared with 122 million pounds for December, 1949, and 117 million pounds for January, 1949.

The high production for January this year compared to January last year was due largely to an increase in numbers of milk cows on farms, since milk produced per cow for the month was slightly below that of a year ago.

January milk production per cow totaled 323 pounds compared with 330 during December and 325 pounds for January, 1949.

The average number of milk cows on farms during January total 372,000 head, being a revised estimate based on the January 1 Rural Carrier Livestock Survey indications.

LIVESTOCK PROVIDES MARKETS FOR OUR CROPS



EGG PRODUCTION SETS NEW RECORD

North Carolina farm flocks laid 72 million eggs in January for the largest January egg production of record. Eggs produced during the month showed a 31 percent increase over the December output and 4 percent greater than the 69 million eggs produced during January a year ago.

Eggs per layer in January were estimated at 9.05, a record high rate for the month. This compares with 8.99 eggs per hen during January a year ago and 6.82 eggs for the previous month. The increased rate of lay can be largely attributed to the unusually favorable weather conditions that prevailed during January.

The number of layers on farms for January is placed at 7,978,000, a slight decline from the 7,982,000 layers on farms in December, but 3 percent greater than the 7,725,000 layers on farms during January of 1949.

Over the Nation a record rate of lay and the largest January egg production of record are reported this month. Farm flocks laid 5,147,000,000 eggs in January -- 12 percent more than in January last year and 38 percent above the 1939-48 average.

Egg production was at record high levels in all regions of the country except the South Central. Increases over last year were 18 percent in the West, 13 percent in the West North Central, 12 percent in the East North Central, 11 percent in the North Atlantic and South Central and 10 percent in the South Atlantic States.

The rate of egg production during January was 12.8 eggs per layer, compared with 12.1 in January last year and an average of 9.6 eggs. The rate was at peak levels in all regions of the country. Increases in the rate above last year were 6 percent in the West North Central, South Central and Western States, 5 percent in the East North Central and 3 percent in the North Atlantic and South Atlantic States.

The Nation's farm flock averaged 403,529,000 layers in January -- 7 percent more than in January last year and 4 percent above average. All regions of the country had more layers in January this year than last. Increases from last year ranged from 5 percent in the South Central to 11 percent in the West. On February 1 this year there were 7 percent more layers on farms than a year ago. Culling during January was slightly less than in January 1949 but above average.

Potential layers on farms February 1 (hens and pullets of laying age plus pullets not of laying age) totaled 420,320,000 -- 6 percent more than a year ago.

GENERAL SITUATION (Continued)

damage last season under quite similar conditions. All small grain crops are in generally good condition at the present time.

Pastures continue in generally good condition throughout the State. Pasture grasses have been favored by the lack of any extended severe cold periods.

Except in northern Piedmont counties, the supplies of hay and roughage on farms are ample for most needs. In District 2 the dry period last season resulted in short hay crops. Grain supplies are ample to see most farmers through the winter in good shape.

Some early planted tobacco plant beds have been damaged by the unseasonably high temperatures. Others are at a point where a severe freeze could cause rather extensive damage.

There has not been enough cold weather yet to thin out the very heavy carry-over of insects from the 1949 season. Grasshoppers are still present and active in many sections. Entomologists are predicting another serious boll weevil problem for the coming year unless some unexpected low temperatures are experienced.

Farmers are considerably ahead of normal in getting their land in shape for spring seeding activities. Seed beds are in very good shape.

MILK COWS FED MORE IN 1949

In 1949 milk cows on farms of the United States were fed about 18.6 million tons of grain, mill-feeds, and other concentrates, worth approximately one and one-tenth billion dollars. The quantity fed per cow in 1949 set a new high record. The total quantity fed was larger than in any year except 1945, when the number of milk cows on farms was much larger. The unit value of concentrate rations fed was \$3.02 per 100 pounds, down 21 percent from the 1948 record and the lowest since 1945. The quantity of grain and other concentrates fed per 100 pounds of milk produced averaged 31.3 pounds in 1949, the highest of record, but the cost was only 95 cents compared with \$1.14 in 1948.

Home-grown feeds made up slightly over half the concentrate ration fed to milk cows. Corn, oats, and commercially mixed feeds were the major individual feeds in the concentrate ration in 1949. In the first half of 1949, dairy product-feed price relationships were more favorable for feeding than in the same period of 1948, but for the year as a whole they were only slightly better than in 1948 and little different from the long-time averages.

ADULT FARMER EDUCATION

Farming is the one unorganized industry at the present time. In the past, farmers have employed the poorest business practices and few have kept any records at all. Even now it is rare to find a farmer who can show what it costs him to produce his corn, pork, or milk, or even what his own time is worth in farm income.

But our farmers are learning. More important, they are doing some logical thinking. They are seeking and following the advice of agricultural workers. They are reading farm publications, attending meetings, talking over plans with neighbors and getting better acquainted with town business men.

One important part in their education is quite insidious and unrealized, but real. For 33 years they have been giving crop acreage reports to their tax listers. This is an annual inventorial kind of information, but by law, it must be treated as confidential and so is not taxable. Too, without production or values it has no tax basis.

What has been the effect of these annual reports on the individuals giving it? Many values and advantages result through better services by his local paid agricultural workers. But what immediate benefit does he personally get?

When the income tax reports were started, they were considered complicated even by lawyers and expert accountants. But the ones for 1949 will not be considered so difficult even by farmers. Why? Because each year's experiences made it more understandable, until now it is accepted as a matter of course and most of us are beginning to look backward and forward so as to better evaluate matters for our own conduct.

Yes, and 33 years with the farm census have accomplished wonders. North Carolina farmers thus hold a unique and valuable advantage not available to other Southern States. Our farmers generally anticipate these reports, which in turn cause them to mentally review previous years and anticipate plans for the year ahead. Then they think some more and try to get official facts and expert advice. This is the ideal purpose of the farm census - inventorial analyses.

Agricultural leaders from the national to the county level are aware of and appreciate this tremendous adult educational advantage and its potentialities. It keeps the local agricultural workers on their toes, for many of their farmers are asking economic questions about which they themselves show good insight. Better yet, they are demanding more, and challenging officials higher up with economic reasoning that denotes deep thought.

FARM EMPLOYMENT BEGINS SEASONAL RISE

There were 1,335,000 persons employed on farms in the South Atlantic States during the week of January 22-28, 1950. Of this total, 1,123,000 were family workers and 212,000 were hired workers.

The number of persons employed on farms during this period was 5 percent below the corresponding period in 1949, and 3% under the five year average. The seasonal rise began however as total farm employment was 7% higher than for the corresponding week of December 1949.

In North Carolina, farm work in nearly all areas was well advanced. Some activities, such as breaking and disking land, were being performed now rather than in March and April which is usually the case.

Other more or less recurring jobs such as fence repair, building, and machinery repairs, cutting ditch banks, and cutting corn and cotton stalks were well advanced and in some instances completed.

In the United States total farm employment during the week of January 22-28 was 2 percent higher than in December. The number of family and hired workers were each 2 percent above the levels of December. Family employment was estimated at 6,338,000 and hired employment at 972,000. The number of hired farm workers was at the lowest level on record for January for the second successive year.

Farm work was at a low point in January over much of the country with chores and the care and feeding of livestock the principal activities on many places. Continued above normal temperatures over the Eastern and Southern States favored livestock and held down the needs for feed supplies. It also favored most outside work. In contrast, unusually cold, stormy weather in the Pacific Northwest, northern Rocky Mountain Area, and northern Great Plains was hard on livestock. It brought heavy demands for feeding and made transportation and other outdoor work difficult.

SOYBEANS (Continued)

elevator stocks are about average for the date. Also included in the current total are 16 million bushels of commercial stocks at terminals, as reported by the Production and Marketing Administration, and nearly 67 million bushels at processing plants, as reported by the Bureau of the Census. Terminal stocks were slightly smaller than usual for January 1, but processors are reported to have the largest stocks of record for this date.

PROSPECTIVE LATE SPRING CABBAGE ACREAGE UP 29 PERCENT

North Carolina growers report intentions to plant 2,700 acres of cabbage for harvest in the late spring of 1950. If these intentions are carried out the late spring cabbage acreage will be 29 percent above the 1949 crop and 65 percent greater than the 10-year average.

Weather conditions were unusually mild during January in this State. Planting of the late spring cabbage crop was completed and, generally, the crop is considerably earlier than normal. For the most part, stands are adequate and the condition of the crop is good. In some of the earliest areas, leaves have begun to twist; however, this is not true generally. If the present mild weather conditions continue, the earliest portion of the crop may be ready for cutting as early as April 1.

The total prospective acreage for the 8 late spring states is estimated at 12,300 acres. This is 1,110 acres above last year and 1,650 above the 1939-48 average. The acreage for each of the late spring states is shown in the table below.

PROSPECTIVE LATE SPRING CABBAGE ACREAGE

STATE	ACREAGE		
	10-YEAR AVERAGE 1939-48	1949	PROSPEC- TIVE 1950
NORTH CAR...	1,640	2,100	2,700
VIRGINIA...	1,800	1,700	1,900
MARYLAND...	1,520	1,200	1,200
TENNESSEE...	3,260	3,800	4,100
KENTUCKY...	280	270	250
OHIO.....	490	500	450
MISSOURI...	1,130	1,000	1,100
WASHINGTON..	530	620	600
TOTAL LATE SPRING....	10,650	11,190	12,300

CHICK OUTPUT ON UPSWING

The number of chicks placed in the Chatham - Wilkes Commercial Broiler Areas totaled 1,379,000 during the month of January.

Of the total number, 487,000 chicks were placed in the Wilkes area and 892,000 in the Chatham area.

January placements in the combined areas were 17% more than the 1,178,000 placed in December 1949 but 23% below placements of January a year ago.

Eggs set in the combined areas in January totaled 2,330,000 compared with 1,594,000 set in December but 542,000 less than for January 1949. Settings in the Chatham area totaled 1,524,000 and 806,000 were set in the Wilkes area.

Turkey marketings from the large '49 crop are about completed.

AGRICULTURE WITH AND WITHOUT ESTIMATES SERVICES

Agriculture without statistics or the calculated evidences of past experiences would be like commerce and industry without such guiding facts. Agriculture needs its annual inventorial information just as truly as do the textile interests their supply and demand facts.

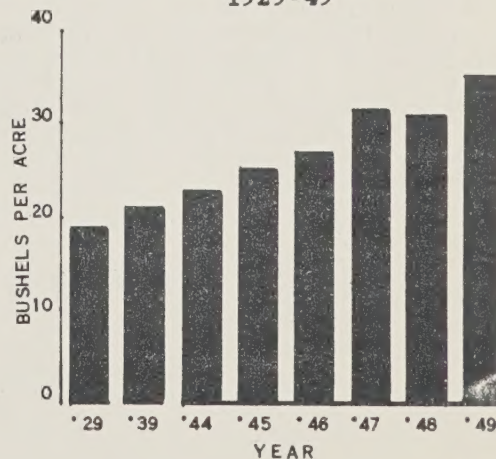
Before the government provided agricultural estimates for our unorganized agricultural industry, the manufacturers paid high prices for privately collected information, which was often used unscrupulously. Such conditions made it necessary for the government to collect and publicize unbiased facts for ALL to be guided by.

Thus, urban industries' planning was reduced to the point of dealing with the officially developed government estimates. Private estimates continued to be developed and sold, but for many years now their endeavors are to forecast what the government will estimate.

And who are the government's agricultural statisticians? Almost all are farm reared, farmer interested college graduates in agricultural economics and statistics with long experiences "growing up" in agricultural estimates work. For example, the North Carolina statistician is such, and now owns his own farm. He has been in his present work since 1916 when he was the only employee; thus he has participated in all developments since.

What kind of crop control programs could be developed without farm facts? Could equitable county allotments be determined? How would your county agents, soil conservationists, agricultural teachers, bankers, Chambers of Commerce, farm equipment dealers, and production credit associations plan for better farm services without the facts that enable them to evaluate the needs?

TREND IN CORN YIELD
NORTH CAROLINA
1929-49



FARM REPORT

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FARM REPORT

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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER DECLINES

Commercial slaughter in North Carolina for December was lower in numbers for all types of meat animals than in December a year ago and also below the number slaughtered during the month of November. This includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter, but excludes farm slaughter.

Total liveweight of animals slaughtered during December was also lower for all types, as compared with the corresponding month a year ago.

Commercial slaughter over the state for the year of 1949 was 19.8% lower in numbers of all types of livestock than in 1948. Total liveweight of animals slaughtered declined 39,430,000 pounds for the period.

Production of meat in commercial plants in the United States during December 1949 totaled 1,894 million pounds. This was an increase of 1 percent from the 1,872 million pounds produced during November, but a decrease of 5 percent from the 1,984 million pounds produced during December 1948.

The estimated meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected plants and in other wholesale and retail plants, but excludes farm slaughter.

For the year 1949, commercial meat production totaled 19,860 million pounds, 2 percent more than the 19,452 million pounds produced in 1948, but 6 percent less than the 21,179 million pounds in 1947.

Compared with 1948, beef and pork production during 1949 showed increases of 4 and 3 percent respectively, while veal production was down 7 percent and mutton and lamb production was down 20 percent.

Employment in November reached the 59½ million mark.

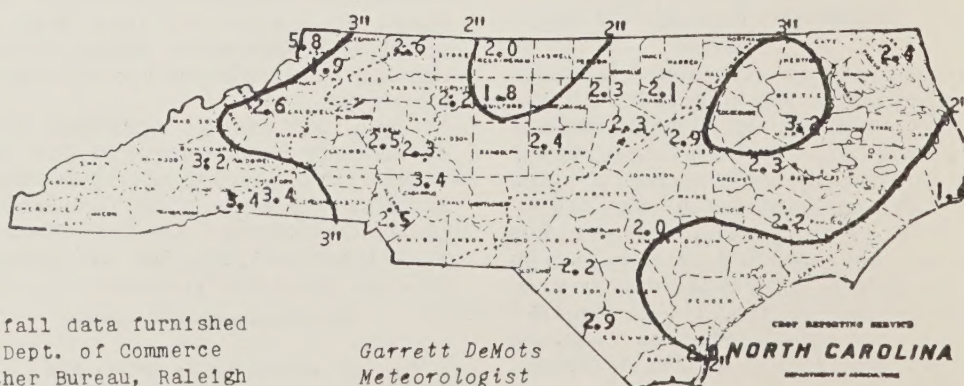
NORTH CAROLINA LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

SPECIES	DECEMBER				JANUARY TO DECEMBER			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	
	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
	THOUS.	HEAD	THOUS.	LBS.	THOUS.	HEAD	THOUS.	LBS.
CATTLE.....	7.7	5.0	6,036	4,218	120.9	79.2	92,979	65,292
CALVES.....	6.6	3.8	1,154	593	126.5	71.4	19,938	11,687
SHEEP.....	.2	.1	18	9	4.1	2.4	356	195
HOGS.....	35.0	26.0	7,551	6,754	357.0	335.0	78,745	75,414

JANUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Exceptionally warm weather prevailed during most of January, 1950, in all parts of North Carolina. Average temperatures for the month were from 10 to 16 degrees above long-time averages. This was the warmest January in the history of the Weather Bureau at all places in North Carolina except the southern Coastal Plains. In the southeast corner of the State temperatures during January, 1937, averaged about one degree warmer than this past January. A further indication of the abnormal warmth this month was the frequency of days with temperatures of 70 degrees or higher. In the Coastal Plains there were from 11 to 16 days with 70-degree temperatures and 80's were reported on one or two days in the southern portions. Even mountain areas reported as many as 4 days with temperatures in the 70's. Outside of the mountains, there were only about 5 days with freezing temperatures. Total precipitation amounts for the month were near normal in parts of the mountains, but were from 1 to 3 inches below normal elsewhere in the State. Traces of snow or sleet were reported at a few places in the Piedmont on two or three different days of the month, which was the only snow reported in North Carolina during the month. It was the first January in nearly 40 years of Weather Bureau records that snow did not fall on Mount Mitchell.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING JANUARY, 1950



Rainfall data furnished
By Dept. of Commerce
Weather Bureau, Raleigh

Garrett DeMots
Meteorologist